

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7872

S E C R E T BELGRADE 5666

NODIS/CHEROKEE

CHEROKEE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO APER

REF: STATE 212932

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

1. ALL RIGHT, I GIVE UP; LOOKING TO A CLOSE ELECTION, I SUPPOSE I CANNOT COURT THE RISK OF EVEN marginally HURTING THE PRESIDENT. THEREFORE, I CONCUR WITH DEFERRING AN ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION. WE CAN LOOK AT THE FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS AT THAT POINT.

2. I INTEND TO LEAVE GOVERNMENT AND ONE REASON I WISHED AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT IS THAT I HAVE ALWAYS FELT AWKWARD IN DISCUSSING PRIVATE OPPORTUNITIES UNTIL A RESIGNATION IS ANNOUNCED. HOWEVER, I SUPPOSE IN THAT RESPECT THIS JOB DIFFERS FROM MY PREVIOUS REGULATORY POSTS. I ASSUME YOU SUGGESTED CONSULTATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMITTING ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE PERSONAL AFFAIRS. DEPENDING ON HOW MATTERS GO HERE, I MAY TAKE YOU UP ON IT. ONE RISK, HOWEVER, IS THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS WILL LEAK AND FURTHERMORE, THE YUGOSLAVS WILL BELIEVE THAT A RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS IS TERMINAL.

3. THE YUGOSLAVS ARE SPREADING THE STORY IN THE DIPLOMATIC

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COMMUNITY THAT I WILL BE LEAVING IN OCTOBER AND THERE IS

NO NEED FOR THEM TO DEAL WITH ME SINCE THEY MAINTAIN
ALTERNATE CHANNELS. MY OWN VIEW IS THAT THEY WOULD PREFER
THAT I REMAIN THROUGH THE ELECTION AND PERMIT AN
OPPORTUNITY TO ADMINISTER A CALCULATED SNUB FOR THE
BENEFIT AND INSTRUCTION OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY
GENERALLY AS WELL AS THE U.S.G. AS I HAVE OFTEN SAID
THEY EMPLOY TO PERFECTION THE STRATEGY OF DIVIDE AND
CONQUER. IN THAT RESPECT I NOTE THAT JUST A FEW DAYS
AGO THE YUGOSLAV CHARGE SOUGHT AND RECEIVED A LUNCHEON
MEETING WITH SAM LEWIS TO DISCUSS U.S. REACTION TO COLOMBO
AT THE VERY TIME THEY ARE REFUSING TO SEE ME ON ANY
MATTER (SOME RECIPROCITY).

4. THE BEST COURSE IN MY JUDGEMENT IS FOR ME TO REMAIN
THROUGH THE ELECTIONS AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO
RECIPROCALLY APPLY THE FREEZE THEY ARE IMPOSING ON ME--
AND MAKE CLEAR WHY IT IS BEING DONE. UNDER THOSE
CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK THEY WILL QUICKLY RELAX THE
FREEZE.

5. THERE IS ONE OTHER POINT. I REMAIN TROUBLED THAT
NO ONE IN THE DEPT HAS DEMANDED OF THE YUGOSLAVS AN
EXPLANATION OF PRESIDENT TITO'S ACCUSATION THAT I
INTERFERED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF YUGOSLAVIA-- AN
ACCUSATION WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO PEDDLE AMONGST THE NON-
ALIGNED AMBASSADORS AND TO WHICH I WOULD LOVE TO RESPOND
PUBLICLY (BUT WILL NOT).
SILBERMAN

SECRET

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